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General and complete disarmament: renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

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Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the need for all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a peaceful and safe world without nuclear weapons, and renewing the determination to do so,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolution 63/73 of 2 December 2008,

Convinced that every effort should be made to avoid nuclear war and nuclear terrorism,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1] as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, welcoming the results of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 2010, the year of the sixty-fifth

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and noting the importance of achieving the success of the Review Conference,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,[3]

Recognizing that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,

Welcoming the recent global momentum of nuclear disarmament towards a world without nuclear weapons, which has been strengthened by concrete proposals and initiatives from political leaders of Member States, in particular by the United States of America and the Russian Federation, which currently together hold most of the nuclear weapons in the world,

Welcoming the holding, on 24 September 2009, of the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, which confirmed the vision of a world without nuclear weapons,

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Recognizing the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) of 14 October 2006 with regard to the nuclear test proclaimed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006 and Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) of 12 June 2009 with regard to the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009, while calling upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return immediately and without preconditions to the Six-Party Talks and reiterating strong support for the early resumption of the Talks,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1] complying with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty;

2. *Stresses* the importance of an effective Treaty review process, and calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to work together so that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons can successfully strengthen the Treaty regime and can establish effective and practical measures in all three pillars of the Treaty;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the universality of the Treaty, and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States without

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[2] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[3] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vols. I-III* (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I-IV)).

delay and without conditions, and pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms as well as to take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

4. *Encourages* further steps leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, including deeper reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, and emphasizes the importance of applying the principles of irreversibility and verifiability, as well as increased transparency, in a way that promotes international stability and undiminished security for all, in the process of working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls upon* all nuclear-weapon States to undertake reductions of nuclear weapons in a transparent manner, and invites all nuclear-weapon States to agree on transparency and confidence-building measures, while noting in this regard the increased transparency demonstrated by nuclear-weapon States on their nuclear arsenals, including the current number of their nuclear warheads;

6. *Encourages* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to fully implement the obligations under the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions[4] and to undertake further steps in nuclear disarmament with greater transparency, including the conclusion of a legally binding successor to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I), which is due to expire in December 2009, while welcoming the progress that has been made recently;

7. *Encourages* States to continue to pursue efforts, within the framework of international cooperation, contributing to the reduction of nuclear-weapons-related materials;

8. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to take measures to reduce the risk of an accidental or unauthorized launch of nuclear weapons and to also consider further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security;

9. *Stresses* the necessity of a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination, in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all;

10. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[5] at the earliest opportunity with a view to its early entry into force and universalization, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and reaffirms the importance of the continued development of the Treaty verification regime, including the international monitoring system, which will be required to provide assurance of compliance with the Treaty;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament of a programme of work[6] for its 2009 session, and calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to start its substantive work when the Conference convenes in January 2010, taking into due consideration the increasing global momentum in favour of

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2350, No. 42195.

[5] See resolution 50/245.

[6] See CD/1864.